

M-15389 US

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-19, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 4 and 20 have allowable subject matter. The rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hampton (U.S. Pat. No. 6,819,256) in view of Boesch et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,438,382). In rejecting claims 1, 15, and 18, the Examiner states, in part, that "Boesch et al. disclose a portable system wherein it uses a GPS and coupled to a microcontroller and receives location wherein one would obviously consider the first and second location as start point and destination point (See col. 1, lines 45-59; col. 11, lines 26-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Hampton with of Boesch et al. by having a GPS sensor coupled to the microcontroller in order to expedite position determination."

As stated by the Examiner, Hampton discloses a portable device comprising a keypad, a microcontroller coupled to the keypad, and a display coupled to the microcontroller. Hampton discloses that the portable device is for providing the user with a reminder message. (See Abstract). The reminder message is to remind the user "to do something that needs to be done, such as an errand or attending a meeting and the like." (Col. 1, lines 15-18).

Boesch et al. disclose a device to "expedite position determination". (Col. 2, line 10). The purpose is to ensure "that a mobile terminal maintains current position assistance data so that the time required to determine its geographic position on demand is reduced." (Col. 2, lines 63-66). Further, Boesch et al. goes on to state that "The mobile terminal 100 maintains

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M-15389 US

updated position assistance data, which may include GPS satellite position and time information, so that it can rapidly calculate its geographic position when necessary.” (Col. 3, lines 42-45). Thus, the device maintains and stores updated position information as the device moves so that when a position determination is needed, such as in an emergency calling situation, the mobile terminal can quickly determine the position because of the stored updated position information. (Col. 1, line 61 to col. 2, line 41). In other words, Boesch et al. discloses a device that calculates the location of the user, where the calculation time is reduced because position information is updated by the device.

In contrast, claim 1 recites that a “microcontroller is operable to (a) direct the GPS sensor to request and receive first location coordinates of a first location of the user when the user presses the keypad, (b) store the first location coordinates, (c) direct the GPS sensor to request and receive second location coordinates at a second location when the user presses the keypad, (d) compare the first and second location coordinates and cause the display to indicate information directing the user from the second location to the first location.” Thus, Applicant’s invention is directed to first storing the position of a first location, such as of a parked vehicle, determining the location of the user at a second location, and then providing directions to the user to get back to the first location from the second location. This is especially useful to enable the user to easily find and get to the location where the user’s car was parked last. This is very different than the device disclosed in Boesch et al. One can look at Boesch et al. as simply performing the function recited in (c), i.e., calculating the location of the user at a present time. There is no disclosure or teaching of other limitations of claim 1, such as comparing a first location to a second location and indicating information to the user of how to get to the first location from the second location. Boesch et al. does not even use the first known location, as it continually updates the current position.

Therefore, for the reasons above, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

M-15389 US

In addition, even assuming *arguendo* that Boesch et al. remedies the deficiencies of Hampton, Applicant contends that Hampton and Boesch et al. cannot be properly combined because there is no motivation to combine. The Examiner states that "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art . . . to modify the system of Hampton with of Boesch et al. by having a GPS sensor coupled to the microcontroller in order to expedite position determination." However, as discussed above, Hampton discloses a device that sends the user reminder messages. There is nothing in Hampton that teaches or suggests using the device to determine user location, which is the subject matter of Boesch et al. Thus, there is no motivation to modify Hampton to expedite position determination because Hampton simply does not discuss or suggest using the device for any kind of location determination.

Independent claim 15 recites that a "microcontroller is operable to (a) direct the GPS sensor to request and receive first location coordinates of a first location of a stationary vehicle when the user presses the first button, (b) store the first location coordinates, (c) direct the GPS sensor to request and receive second location coordinates at a second location when the user presses the second button, (d) compare the first and second location coordinates and direct the display to display a direction from the second location to the first location".

Independent claim 18 recites "receiving a first input from a user at the portable locator device; responsive to the first input, sending a signal to a Global Positioning System (GPS) to retrieve first location coordinates of the portable locator device from the GPS; storing the first location coordinates in the portable locator device; receiving a second input from a user at the portable locator device; responsive to the second input, sending a signal to the GPS to retrieve second location coordinates of the portable device from the GPS; comparing the second location coordinates to the first location coordinates; and displaying a direction arrow to indicate a direction from the second location coordinates to the first location coordinates."

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M-15389 US

Thus, for reasons similar to claim 1, claims 15 and 18 are patentable over Hampton in view of Boesch et al.

Claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16, 17, 19, and 21-23 depend on claims 1, 15, and 18 and are thus patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 15, and 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Objected to Claims

Claims 4 and 20 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, as discussed above, Applicant contends that claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, and claim 18, from which claim 20 depends, are allowable. Accordingly, claims 4 and 20 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 18, respectively.

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M-15389 US

CONCLUSION

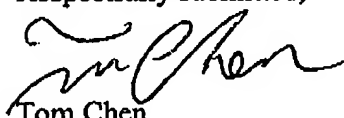
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes pending claims 1-23 are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


Monique M. ButlerApril 21, 2006
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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